

MEA

own heart may tell you that there is something amiss, nor over-scrupulously pursue it when you are not conscious to yourself of notable failings. *Taylor's Guide to a Penitent.*
The rains were but preparatory in some measure, and the violence and consummation of the deluge depended upon the disruption of the great abyss. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*
8. Proportionate time; musical time.
Amaryllis breathes thy secret pains,
And thy fond heart beats measure to thy strains. *Prior.*
9. Motion harmonically regulated.
My legs can keep no measure in delight,
When my poor heart no measure keeps in grief:
Therefore no dancing, girl, some other sport. *Shakespeare.*
As when the stars in their ethereal race,
At length have roll'd around the liquid space,
From the same point of heav'n their course advance,
And move in measures of their former dance. *Dryden.*
10. A stately dance. This sense is, I believe, obsolete.
Wooing, wedding, and repenting, is as a Scotch jig, a measure and a cinque pace; the first suit is hot and hasty, like a Scotch jig, and full as fantastical; the wedding mannerly, modest as a measure, full of state and anchentury. *Shakespeare.*
Now are our brows bound with victorious wreaths,
Our stern alarms chang'd to merry meetings,
Our dreadful marches to delightful measures. *Shakespeare.*
11. Moderation; not excess.
O love, be moderate, allay thy ecstasy;
In measure rein thy joy, scant this excess;
I feel too much thy blessing, make it less,
For fear I surfeit. *Shakespeare. Merchant of Venice.*
Hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure. *Isa. vi. 14.*
12. Limit; boundary. In the same sense is
Τρεῖς ἴσων διχαδὸς τριμῆδος δύο, μέτρον ἱστικῶν
Ἡμετέρας διδὸν μέτρον αἰθρίας.
Ἀρχαῖα τὸ τοιοῦτον.
Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days what it is, that I may know how frail I am. *Psal.*
13. Any thing adjusted.
He only lived according to nature, the other by ill customs, and measures taken by other mens eyes and tongues. *Taylor's holy living.*
Christ reveals to us the measures according to which God will proceed in dispensing his rewards. *Smalridge's Sermons.*
14. Syllables metrically numbered; metre.
I addressed them to a lady, and affected the softness of expression, and the smoothness of measure, rather than the height of thought. *Dryden.*
The numbers themselves, though of the heroic measure, should be the smoothest imaginable. *Pope.*
15. Tune; proportionate notes.
The joyous nymphs and light-foot fairies,
Which thither came to hear their music sweet,
And to the measures of their melodies
Did learn to move their nimble-shifting feet. *Spenser.*
16. Mean of action; mean to an end.
His majesty found what wrong measures he had taken in the conferring that trust, and lamented his error. *Clarendon.*
17. To have hard measure; to be hardly dealt by.
To MEASURE. *v. a.* [measure, French; mensura, Latin.]
1. To compute the quantity of any thing by some settled rule.
Archidamus having received from Philip, after the victory of Cheronia, proud letters, writ back, that if he measured his own shadow he would find it no longer than it was before his victory. *Bacon's Apophth.*
2. To pass through; to judge of extent by marching over.
A true devoted pilgrim is not weary
To measure kingdoms with his feeble steps. *Shakespeare.*
I'll tell thee all my whole device
At the park-gate; and therefore haste away,
For we must measure twenty miles to-day. *Shakespeare.*
The vessel ploughs the sea,
And measures back with speed her former way. *Dryden.*
3. To judge of quantity or extent, or greatness.
Great are thy works, Jehovah; infinite
Thy power! What thought can measure thee, or tongue
Relate thee? *Milton's Par. Lost, b. vii.*
4. To adjust; to proportion.
To secure a contented spirit, measure your desires by your fortunes, not your fortunes by your desires. *Taylor.*
Silver is the instrument as well as measure of commerce; and 'tis by the quantity of silver he gets for any commodity in exchange that he measures the value of the commodity he sells. *Locke.*
5. To mark out in stated quantities.
What thou seek'st is that portion of eternity which is called time, measured out by the sun, and reaching from the beginning of the world to its consummation. *Aldrich's Spectator.*
6. To allot or distribute by measure.

MEC

With what measure you mete, it shall be measured to you again.
MEASURELESS. *adj.* [from measure.] Immense; immeasurable.
He shut up the measureless content. *Shakespeare.*
MEASUREMENT. *n. f.* [from measure.] Mensuration; act of measuring.
MEASURER. *n. f.* [from measure.] One that measures.
MEASURING. *adj.* [from measure.] It is applied to a cast not to be distinguished in its length from another but by measuring.
When lusty shepherds throw
The bar by turns, and none the rest out-go
So far, but that the best are measuring caits,
Their emulation and their pasture lasts. *Wallis.*
MEAT. *n. f.* [met, French.]
1. Flesh to be eaten.
To his father he sent ten she asses laden with corn, and bread, and meat, for his father by the way. *Gen. xlv. 23.*
Carnivore, and birds of prey, are no good meat; but the reason is, rather the cholerick nature of those birds than their feeding upon flesh; for pews and ducks feed upon flesh, and yet are good meat. *Bacon's Nat. Hist. N. 859.*
There was a multitude of excises; as, the vestigal macelli, a tax upon meat. *Arbutnot.*
2. Food in general.
Never words were musick to thine ear,
And never meat sweet-favour'd in thy taste,
Unless I spake or car'd. *Shakespeare. Comedy of Errors.*
Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats; but God shall destroy both. *1 Cor. vi. 13.*
MEATED. *adj.* [from meat.] Fed; foddered.
Strong oxen and horses, well shod and well clad,
Well meat and used. *Tusser's Hays.*
MEATHE. *n. f.* [medd, Welsh, unde mede, meddwi ebrius sum.] Drink.
For drink the grape
She crushes, inoffensive must, and meathes
From many a berry. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. v.*
MEAZLING. *part.* generally called mizzling. See MIZZLE.
The air feels more moist when the water is in small than in great drops; in meazling and soaking rain, than in great showers. *Arbutnot on Air.*
MECHANICAL. *adj.* [mechanicus, Lat. mechanique, French; MECHANICK. *f.* from μηχανική.]
1. Mean; servile; of mean occupation.
Know you not, being mechanical, you ought not walk upon a labouring day, without the sign of your profession? *Shakespeare.*
Hang him, mechanical salt-butter rogue; I will stare him out of his wits; I will hew him with my cudgel. *Shakespeare.*
Mechanick slaves,
With greasy aprons, rules, and hammers, shall
Uplift us to the view. *Shakespeare. Ant. and Cleopatra.*
To make a god, a hero, or a king,
Descend to a mechanick dialect. *Rowe.*
2. Constructed by the laws of mechanics.
Many a fair precept in poetry is, like a seeming demonstration in mathematics, very specious in the diagram, but failing in the mechanick operation. *Dryden.*
The main business of natural philosophy, is to argue from phenomena without feigning hypotheses, and to deduce causes from effects till we come to the very first cause, which certainly is not mechanical; and not only to unfold the mechanism of the world, but chiefly to resolve these, and such like questions. *Newton's Opticks.*
3. Skilled in mechanics.
MECHANICK. *n. f.* A manufacturer; a low workman.
Do not bid me
Dismiss my soldiers, or capitulate *Shakespeare. Coriolanus.*
Again with Rome's mechanicks. *Shakespeare.*
A third proves a very heavy philosopher, who possibly would have made a good mechanick, and have done well enough at the useful philosophy of the spade or the anvil. *South.*
MECHANICKS. *n. f.* [mechanica, Latin.]
Dr. Wallis defines mechanicks to be the geometry of motion, a mathematical science, which shews the effects of powers, or moving forces, so far as they are applied to engines, and demonstrates the laws of motion. *Harris.*
The rudiments of geography, with something of mechanicks, may be easily conveyed into the minds of acute young persons. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*
Salmon was a great proficient in mechanicks, and inventor of a vessel which imitated thunder. *Brown.*
MECHANICALLY. *adv.* [from mechanick.] According to the laws of mechanism.
They suppose even the common animals that are in being, to have been formed mechanically among the rest. *Ray.*
Later philosophers feign hypotheses for explaining all things mechanically, and refer other causes to metaphysics. *Newton.*

MECHANICALNESS.

MED

MECHANICALNESS. *n. f.* [from mechanick.]
1. Agreeableness to the laws of mechanism.
2. Meanness.
MECHANICIAN. *n. f.* [mechanicien, French.] A man professing or studying the construction of machines.
Some were figured like male, others like female screws, as mechanicians speak. *Boyle.*
MECHANISM. *n. f.* [mechanisme, French.]
1. Action according to mechanick laws.
After the chyle has passed through the lungs, nature continues her usual mechanism, to convert it into animal substances. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*
He acknowledges nothing besides matter and motion; so that all must be performed either by mechanism or accident, either of which is wholly unaccountable. *Bentley.*
2. Construction of parts depending on each other in any complicated fabric.
MECHANICAN. *n. f.*
Mechanican is a large root, twelve or fourteen inches long, and of the thickness of a man's wrist, usually divided into two branches at the bottom: what we see of it is commonly cut transversely into slices for the convenience of drying it: its first introduction into Europe was about two hundred and twenty years ago: it is brought from the province of Mechacan in South America, from whence it has its name: the plant which affords it is a species of bindweed, and its stalks, which are angular, and full of a refinous milky juice, climb upon every thing which stands near them: the root in powder is a gentle and mild purgative. *Hill's Mat. Med.*
MECONIUM. *n. f.* [mekonion.]
1. Expelled juice of poppy.
2. The first excrement of children.
Infants new-born have a meconium, or sort of dark-coloured excrement in the bowels. *Arbutnot on Diet.*
MEDAL. *n. f.* [medaille, Fr. probably from metallum, Lat.]
1. An ancient coin.
The Roman medals were their current money: when an action deserved to be recorded on a coin, it was stamped, and issued out of the mint. *Aldrich's Guard. N. 96.*
2. A piece stamped in honour of some remarkable performance.
MEDALLICK. *n. f.* [from medal.] Pertaining to medals.
You will never, with all your medallick eloquence, persuade Eugenius, that it is better to have a pocketful of Otho's than of Jacobus's. *Aldrich on ancient Medals.*
MEDALLION. *n. f.* [medaillon, Fr.] A large antique stamp or medal.
Medallions, in respect of the other coins, were the same as modern medals in respect of modern money. *Aldrich.*
MEDALLIST. *n. f.* [medailliste, Fr.] A man skilled or curious in medals.
In the language of a medallist, you are not to look upon a cabinet of medals as a treasure of money, but of knowledge. *Aldrich on ancient Medals.*
To MEDDLE. *v. n.* [middelen, Dutch.]
1. To have to do: in this sense it is always followed by with.
It is reported that cassia, when gathered, is put into the skins of beasts newly flayed, which breeding worms, they devour the pith and marrow, and so make it hollow; but meddle not with the back, because it is bitter. *Bacon.*
With the power of it upon the spirits of men we will only meddle. *Bacon's Nat. Hist. N. 945.*
I have thus far been an upright judge, not meddling with the design nor disposition. *Dryden.*
2. To interpose; to act in any thing.
For my part, I'll not meddle nor make any farther. *Shakespeare.*
In every turn of state, without meddling on either side, he has always been favourable to merit. *Dryden.*
The civil lawyers have pretended to determine concerning the succession of princes; but, by our author's principles, have meddled in a matter that belongs not to them. *Locke.*
What hast thou to do to meddle with the affairs of my family? to dispose of my estate, old boy? *Arbutnot.*
3. To interpose or intervene importunately or officiously.
Why should'st thou meddle to thy hurt? *2 Kings xiv. 10.*
It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling. *Prov. xx. 3.*
This meddling priest longs to be found a fool. *Rowe.*
Let me shake off th' intrusive cares of day,
And lay the meddling senses all aside. *Thomson's Winter.*
To MEDDLE. *v. a.* [from meddler, Fr.] To mix; to mingle. Obsolete.
A meddled state of the orders of the gospel, and the ceremonies of popery, is not the best way to banish popery. *Hosker, b. iv.*
He that had well ycon'd his lere,
Thus meddled his talk with many a teare. *Spenser.*
MEDDLER. *n. f.* [from meddle.] One who buies himself with things in which he has no concern.
Do not drive away such as bring thee information, as meddlers; but accept of them in good part. *Bacon.*
This may be applied to those that assume to themselves

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the merits of other mens services, meddlers, boasters, and impertinents. *L'Estrange.*
MEDDLESOME. *adj.* Intermeddling: as, a meddlesome busy body. *Ains.*
MEDIASTINE. *n. f.* [French; mediastinum, Latin.] The fimbriated body about which the guts are convolved.
None of the membranes which invest the inside of the breast but may be the seat of this disease, the mediastine as well as the pleura. *Arbutnot on Diet.*
To MEDIATE. *v. n.* [from medius, Latin.]
1. To interpose as an equal friend to both parties; to act indifferently between contending parties; to intercede.
The corruption of manners in the world, we shall find owing to some mediating schemes that offer to comprehend the different interests of sin and religion. *Rogers.*
2. To be between two.
By being crowded, they exclude all other bodies that before mediated between the parts of their body. *Digby.*
To MEDIATE. *v. a.*
1. To form by mediation.
The earl made many professions of his desire to interpose, and mediate a good peace between the nations. *Clarendon.*
I possess chemists and corpuscularians of advantages by the confederacy I am mediating between them. *Boyle.*
2. To limit by something in the middle.
They styled a double step, that is, the space from the elevation of one foot to the same foot set down again, mediated by a step of the other foot a pace equal to five feet. *Holder on Time.*
MEDIATE. *adj.* [mediat, French; medius, Latin.]
1. Interposed; intervening.
Soon the mediate clouds shall be dispell'd;
The sun shall soon be face to face beheld. *Prior.*
2. Middle; between two extremes.
Anxious we hover in a mediate state,
Betwixt infinity and nothing. *Prior.*
2. Acting as a means. Unusual.
The most important care of a new and vigorous king, was his marriage for mediate establishment of the royal line. *Wotton's Life of Buckingham.*
MEDIATELY. *adv.* [from mediate.] By a secondary cause; in such a manner that something acts between the first cause and the last effect.
God worketh all things amongst us mediately by secondary means; the which means of our safety being shipping and sea-forces, are to be esteemed as his gifts, and then only available and beneficial when he vouchsafeth his grace to use them aright. *Raleigh's Essays.*
Pestilent contagion is propagated immediately by conversing with infected persons, and mediately by pestilent fuminares propagated through the air. *Harvey on Consumptions.*
MEDIATION. *n. f.* [mediation, French, from medius, Lat.]
1. Interposition; intervention; agency between two parties, practised by a common friend.
Some nobler token I have kept apart
For Livia and Octavia, to induce
Their mediation. *Shakespeare. Antony and Cleopatra.*
Noble offices thou may'st effect
Of mediation, after I am dead,
Between his greatness and thy other brethren. *Shakespeare.*
The king sought unto them to compose those troubles between him and his subjects; they accordingly interposed their mediation in a round and princely manner. *Bacon.*
2. Agency; an intervenient power.
The passions have their residence in the sensitive appetite: for inasmuch as man is a compound of flesh as well as spirit, the soul, during its abode in the body, does all things by the mediation of these passions. *South's Sermon.*
It is utterly unconceivable, that inanimate brute matter, without the mediation of some immaterial being, should operate upon other matter without mutual contact. *Bentley.*
3. Intercession; entreaty for another.
MEDIATOR. *n. f.* [mediateur, French.]
1. One that intervenes between two parties.
You had found by experience the trouble of all mens concurrence, and for all matters to yourself, as a mediator between them and their sovereign. *Bacon's Advice to Villiers.*
2. An intercessor; an entreater for another; one who uses his influence in favour of another.
It is against the sense of the law, to make saints or angels to be mediators between God and them. *Stillington.*
3. One of the characters of our blessed Saviour.
Man's friend, his mediator, his design'd,
Both ransom and redeemer voluntary. *Milton.*
MEDIATORIAL. *adj.* [from mediator.] Belonging to a mediator.
MEIDIATORY. *f.* diator.
All other effects of Christ's mediatorial office are accounted for from the truth of his resurrection. *Fiddes's Sermons.*
MEDIATORSHIP. *n. f.* [from mediator.] The office of a mediator.
MEDIATRIX. *n. f.* [mediatrix, Lat.] A female mediator. *Ains.*
MEDIC.